



**Michelle S. Langenfeld, Ed.D.**  
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October 20, 2017

Diane W. Doersch  
Chief Technology & Information Officer  
Green Bay Area Public Schools  
200 South Broadway  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303

Chairman Ajit Pai  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to provide feedback to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Public Notice which considers changes to the E-Rate program. We are very grateful for the E-Rate program and its 2014 modernization policy changes. Because of E-Rate, we here in the Green Bay Area Public Schools, have been able to provide critical infrastructure upgrades from switches to access points to Internet access to get our 22,000 students the digital resources they need. Because of E-Rate we have been able to bring our schools into the 21st century. Without E-Rate funding we would not be able to keep up with and sustain the rapid need for digital resources our students and staff use daily. As we move from paper copy textbook-based learning material to robust and engaging digital content it will be important to continue E-Rate funding so we don't lose steam in the technological support of our students.

We recommend that we remain with the existing Category 2 five year budget cycle. The current mathematical formula based on a dollar amount allocated per each of our students is working for us. If we were to revert to the old two-in-five rule it would introduce a greater level of uncertainty about the availability of funding. In the old model, we would never know what parts of Category 2, if any, would be funded due to the prioritization of telecommunications and Internet access and the balance of funds available to support what was formerly called Priority Two good and services now known as Category Two. Not knowing what we have as a total amount to spend makes budgeting very difficult. It would not be the best use of our time to create an RFP for items we want to purchase, go through the selection and legal process, only to find out that the USF has run out of money for Category 2 products and services. Taking UPS, switches, access points, and the building of a Wide Area Network through the RFP process has taken our staff well over 200 hours. If we went back to the old model of the two-in-five there would be a high probability that there would not be any remaining funds for our Category 2 requests and all our valuable work would be for naught.

In closing, I reiterate my district's continued and strong support for the current model of our E-Rate program. The hardware and service we are able to purchase with E-Rate funds are a necessity. We rely heavily on E-Rate to help us keep up with the needs of our students, who are our digital consumers. Thank you for considering our comments. I would be very happy to discuss this with you at any time.

Sincerely,

Diane W. Doersch